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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,007	09/27/2005	Ulrich Denecke	20800/0204885-US0	1389

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NINH H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3745

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

ED

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,007	Applicant(s) DENECKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Ninh H. Nguyen	Art Unit 3745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/27/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. While the specification is not objected to, the practice of referring to claim numbers within the specification as seen on page 4 is strongly discouraged because claim numbers often changed during prosecution of an application. If the application is finally issued into a patent, the final claims 14 and 15 may not have the features that the specification referring to. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 18, 19-21, 22-26, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

There is a lack of antecedent basis for the limitations of "each of the webs" in claims 18 and 22, "the webs" in claims 19 and 28, and "the two similar groups" in claim 27. These limitations are recited in claim 17 which is not the corresponding independent claim of the claims being discussed.

Claims 20, 21 and 23-26 are indefinite as being dependent on claims 19 and 22, respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 16-21, and 29-32, as far as they are definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Covington et al. (5,358,381).

Covington discloses a twist element for a bearingless rotor (Figs. 1-10), comprising a composite fiber material, having a symmetrical, flattened cross section with an outer contour of a horizontal section through the center of a double cone (Fig. 8; col. 5, line 35-48);

wherein the cross section of the twist element includes a thin root area forming a middle area (near elements 83 and 85 of Fig. 8), and two similar groups of webs (shown at 67-69 and 70-72), wherein the webs of each of the two similar groups extend from the middle area and are separated from each other vertically by narrow gaps (Fig. 8), and wherein a thickness of each web increases with increasing distance from the middle area (Fig. 8);

wherein each of the webs have a wedge-shaped cross section having a tip meeting the root area (Fig. 8);

wherein the webs includes unidirectional reinforcement fiber packets 75 (Fig. 8) disposed at least at an area of lateral sides of the cross-section of the twist element, each of the reinforcement fiber packets having fibers running in a lengthwise direction of the twist element;

wherein the unidirectional reinforcement fiber packets extend to the outer contour of the cross section of the twist element (Fig. 8);

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wherein the fibers of the unidirectional reinforcement fiber packets include carbon fibers (col. 8, lines 1-4); and

wherein the twist element forms an integral part of one of a rotor blade, a rotor blade connection element, a rotor blade joining element and a rotor head element (Fig. 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 22-28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art

The prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of 2 patents.

Yasui (6,805,948) and Matsumoto et al. (4,892,461) are cited to show different flex beam elements for helicopter rotors.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Ninh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4823. The examiner can be normally reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look, can be reached at (571) 272-4820. The fax number for this group is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, please go to <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> or contact the Electronic Business center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


NINH H. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Nhn
March 26, 2007